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TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1912.

JEFFERSON ON WOMEN IN POLITICS.

In the year 1788, when Louis XVI. was vainly endeavoring to prevent the revolution by throwing soap to the populace, Thomas Jefferson was the United States minister at Paris. Under date of December 4, in that year, Jefferson wrote President Washington, and after describing the condition at Paris, declared that he felt there was a sinister and dangerous influence, which had not been sufficiently understood or guarded against by the King and his Cabinet. Perhaps it would be better to give Jefferson's fears in his own language, and this is how he expressed himself:

"In my opinion, a kind of influence which none of their plans of reform takes into account will subvert them all. I mean the influence of women in the government. The manners of the nation allow them to visit, alone, all persons in office, to solicit the affairs of the husband, family or friends, and their solicitations bear delusive to the government. This influence may seem less to those who, like our countrymen, are in the precious habit of considering right as a barrier against all solicitation. Nor can such an one, without the evidence of his own eyes, believe in the desperate state to which things are reduced in this country from the omnipotence of an influence which, fortunately, does not endeavor to extend itself in our country beyond the domestic line."

To-day, a century and a quarter after these words were written, the legislative halls of Virginia are thronged with representatives of that same spirit and that same sex whose facility in visiting "all persons in office" seemed to Jefferson so wholly subversive of good government and wise administration.

The sage of Monticello, like the Holy Scriptures, is quoted by everybody for every purpose. There seems hardly any doubt as to the interpretation to be placed upon the quotation we have given above, nor of the opinion that Jefferson would express were he to see in Virginia the same aggressive, far-reaching and persistent influence of women which produced in his mind such a deep and unfavorable impression the year before the French Revolution.

A WORD TO THE RICHMOND DELEGATION.

No measure before the Legislature touches Richmond as vitally as the Tax Commission bill, for no city, county or section has suffered as heavily from unequal taxes as Richmond.

In his address on the occasion of the assembling of the Legislature, Speaker R. E. Byrd declared that Richmond was paying \$155,000 more of net revenue to the State of Virginia than all the counties combined. This astounding fact has been received with a calmness that is only explicable on the theory that Richmond has been unfairly taxed so long that her people have lost the power of complaint. Still it would seem that the representatives of Richmond in the Legislature—men who were elected to enact laws for the welfare of the whole State and to protect the interests of their constituents—would have taken some forcible and favorable stand in regard to the Tax Commission.

When at various times past questions of taxes have been raised that affected the income of the city directly, none were so valiant and none so vigorous as the Richmond members, yet the tax bill proposed by Speaker Byrd means far more to the citizens of Richmond than any other fiscal measure that has been introduced for years. And not to Richmond only, but to the whole State, for this measure will lay the foundation, and the only foundation, on which reduction of taxation can be secured. It will help every one of the counties that is now honestly doing its duty and paying its proportion of its obligations to the State. The man who built his house on the sand was not more mistaken than a State that builds its taxation on glaring and permitted inequalities.

The only objection of real merit that has been raised to the Tax Commission bill was the provision requiring all appeals to be heard in Richmond. This provision, as we understand it, has been changed, and appeals will be heard by the local courts. With this single exception the Tax Commission bill is the most comprehensive, useful and important piece of legislation that has been proposed since Roadmaster days. It deserves, and it should have, the support of the whole Legislature, for it concerns the welfare of the whole State. And Richmond, as a party whose interest exceeds that of any other subdivision of this Commonwealth, cannot afford to overlook the importance and the value of this legislation.

The representatives of Richmond in the General Assembly can best serve the interests of their constituents and of the State by getting together as one man and supporting without reservation the Tax Commission bill. It is not the time to ride hobby-horse, or to insist on the strict acceptance of the term, or

seek the limelight through the championing of freak or hopeless measures. If the full weight of the Richmond delegation is thrown behind this bill the chances of its passage will be tremendously enlarged. A square stand for the Tax Commission bill is what Richmond requires of her legislative representatives now. They have a plain duty to do; let them support this bill aggressively from now on.

DO THE PEOPLE WANT A PUBLIC LIBRARY?

Unaccountably apathetic has been the attitude so far of the people of Richmond toward the project to establish a free public library here. Only a popular demand is needed to bring such a beneficial institution into being; yet that demand does not seem to be forthcoming. If the citizens will but show a real and widespread desire for a free library, the City Council will grant their request. The city can well afford it, and is in a better condition to establish it now than ever before.

Why is there so little interest in this splendid project? Why is it that not a single member of the City Council has been asked by any one to vote for a free public library for the people of this city? Where are the patriots, the fraternal, the commercial, the labor, the educational organizations of Richmond, that they do not come forward and record themselves as desiring a municipal library for the people? Where are the public spirited citizens that they do not speak out for it?

Can it be possible that this great educational plant is not wanted by the people? Are not the needs of school children to be heeded? How about the boys who are trying to educate themselves—how about those who have been unable to complete their education, and could finish it through a complete library? What of the thousands who would gain profit and pleasure in a free public library? Where are the poor men who cannot buy books, and yet want to read and attain self-culture? Why are the women silent, knowing as they do what a library would mean to their children and to themselves? Where are the friends of good books? Where are the people who would rather see boys and girls reading instead of being on the streets?

Within two weeks the annual city budget is to be made up. An appropriation for the free public library ought to be included in that budget, and it will be if the people who want a library will speak up. It is simply a question of an appropriation for one project or another, and infinitely better the library than anything else contemplated. Action must be taken now; requests must be made now. Thomas J. Todd has offered \$15,000 as a nucleus for the library, and his offer ought not to be allowed to die for want of action. Mayor Richardson yesterday signed the joint resolution of the City Council appointing a commission to look into the matter of a free public library. This is the time, therefore, for those who want the library to "get busy."

Let the civic and other benevolent organizations of Richmond demand a library; above all, let the people demand it. Every one who wants a free public library should see his representatives in Council at once, or write them, or telephone them, expressing his desire that this great educational institution be established for the education and self-help of the people.

"MY SOCIALISTS."

No doubt it is true, as stated in Berlin specials to several of the Sunday papers, that the Kaiser is grievously disappointed and greatly angered at the result of the late Reichstag elections. It was a result little short of a Socialist landslide, both in respect of popular vote and the number of Socialist members returned.

The former totaled over 4,000,000 as against 3,250,000 in 1907, while the number of seats secured was eighty-one. Nor is that the end, nor the worst of it so far as the Kaiser is concerned. The clear indications are that in the second elections the party will make still further seat gains, running their group up to at least 100. If not 105, and possibly capturing two of the hitherto impregnable conservative strongholds.

No wonder, therefore, the Kaiser is disappointed and angered. The popular verdict, as voiced in the Socialist vote, which represented nearly 40 per cent. of the vote of the empire, amounts to a revolutionary vote, and under a form of government embracing ministerial responsibility, such as obtains in England, would, through the representation it has returned already and its assumed additions, come very near to throwing the government out.

But the further statement in the special in question that the Kaiser will dissolve the Reichstag on the first pretext and appeal to the people, it would be well and wise to discount, and that pretty heavily. Nor is there any reason to treat as more than a passing exhalation of excitement and chaffing the threat to "check the red flood" attributed to him.

Not many years back the Kaiser, it was published in one of his war journals, swore by the names of all his ancestors in general and by the beard of Barbarossa in particular, that he would crush "the viper socialism." How much truth there was in the publication we all know. But it is unquestionable that soon after the electoral reform demonstrations in Berlin and other large cities of Germany, some months ago, he declared that "my Socialists are not as black as they are painted" and they are not.

The rank and file of electors grouped politically under the head of the Socialists are not as black as they are painted. The rank and file of electors grouped politically under the head of the Socialists are not as black as they are painted. The rank and file of electors grouped politically under the head of the Socialists are not as black as they are painted.

as the term covers French socialism, especially. They do not by any means accept the Socialist creed outright. Millions of Germans affiliated with the Socialist organization are simply at the last protestants against existing conditions, and have united with that organization in order to work out what they consider essential reforms, which the older parties cannot be trusted to concede or grant.

The party as a whole, is, after all, vastly more democratic than socialist, and the increasing trend of its representatives in the Reichstag towards conservatism and opportunism proportionately leaves little doubt of its final evolution into pure democracy. In that fact lies its greatest strength, and there it has succeeded in putting the Kaiser most markedly on the defensive before both the mass of his own subjects and the advocates of true constitutional and representative government the world over.

Democracy triumphant in Germany means the surrender of some of the crown's most cherished prerogatives. It is natural that the Kaiser should die hard and struggling on the proposition, but he is no fool. He knows as well how far to go on domestic as on foreign issues; he knows when and how to save his face. However intemperate and violent his utterances at times, he keeps his ear to the ground.

Hence it is pretty safe to forecast that he will finally conclude that "my red flood" is not so red as it looks, and not take the chances of going further and faring worse by dissolving the Reichstag, particularly seeing that his combination in the body will be still strong enough in any event to carry through the general policy of the government, and, save for a few of the extreme irreconcilables, the Socialist leaders are becoming steadily less uncompromising with acquisition of more power.

Even Herr Bebel struck the Kaiser a disarming blow by declaring during the height of the excitement over the Moroccan question that Socialist repugnance to militarism notwithstanding, it came to war the Socialists would stand fast to the cause of the Fatherland.

WON'T BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH.

Ten Massachusetts Veterans who served throughout the War Between the States have, to their honor be it said, sent to the Senate a vigorous and indignant protest against more pensions—that is to say, the passage of the Sherwood bill, which they characterize as a gratuity measure, "the burden of which should not be imposed on the country. The Indianapolis News applauds the protestants who "have the courage to stand up in the face of all the complaints that the government shirks its duty to the soldiers"; but, continuing, it says: "The Sherwood bill is not a pension bill; it is political graft." The points of our contemporary are well taken, and serve to accentuate most potently the position of the little Spartan band.

However, the News does not stop there. The bill, it passed, it resumes, will not impoverish the nation, but it will tend to lessen the respect in which the nation has always held the soldiers, especially if these men have done, generally do not, as these men have done, denounce the political method by which men not entitled to pensions by actual services rendered may get them. If the true veterans do not arouse themselves as regards this matter, it will not be long before the word "veteran" will carry no honorable distinction with it, for the reason that, what with the mixing up of the graft gratuity, political proteges and the real soldier, the American people will not be able to distinguish the sheep from the goats.

It is quite believable that if Dr. Cook went to Essex county he would be treated as he was in Copenhagen when he went back there to lecture. Robert Beverley, of Caret, writing to the Fredericksburg Free Lance, says that it is the impression in Essex that in order to prove he had been to the North Pole Dr. Cook brought it with him to Richmond, and that it was responsible for the slight departure from the summer weather enjoyed this winter in the Old Dominion. "Somebody has suggested it might be a good plan to pay him to carry it back, and throw in a medal besides. Everybody has gotten ice, and we are ready to have it moved on," declares Mr. Beverley, who doubtless would be unwilling to swap a slice of good old Essex country ham for the best polar bear steak a la Bernaise that could be had.

"A great judge" was the description of Judge Walter A. Watson, applied yesterday by Senator J. Randolph Tucker, of Bedford, in seconding the nomination of Robert G. Southall, as Judge Watson's successor. Senator Tucker served ably as a judge himself, and is fully qualified to speak. The politicians are not so much concerned about the date of the inauguration as over its political complexion. It remains to be seen how the anti-trusting bill will be treated. The stout people who are trying to stir up the use of butter are receiving much assistance from the Elgin board. The subcommittee of the United States Senate has found Senator Stephenson not guilty of expending money improperly to secure his election, but warns him not to do it again.

"This bill will, of course, be opposed by those who have long enjoyed the license to take toll and tribute from the rest of the State," says the Peninsula Enterprise, with reference to the tax commission bill. It might be added that this excellent and most important of all the measures on the legislative calendar is opposed only by those who object to the square deal. Dr. George H. Denny is just beginning to get settled down as president of the University of Alabama, but already he has been elected president of the University of Montana, although he has declined to leave his present high post. Life with Dr. Denny seems to be just one university presidency after another. Woodrow Wilson now seems disposed to spell it "Harper's Weekly." A New York man was awarded \$7,539 damages for the loss of his spleen. That would be ridiculously cheap for Colonel Roosevelt's.

Andrew Carnegie found it more difficult to collect that witness fee of \$28.70, than many millions from the consumers of steel. Food prices in New York City continue to soar, which makes the New York consumers continually sore. The fact that the New York laundries are charging 20 cents to wash a shirt may have a tendency to make it worth it. Colonel Roosevelt denies that he is going abroad. Others assert that he is already at sea. Presidential booms sometimes make only a feeble noise outside the States of their origin.

Voice of the People

D. A. R.'s Do Not Meet on Sunday. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Please allow me space in your paper to correct an error of statement in an article signed E. C. appearing in your paper of yesterday, Sunday, January 21.

The writer says: "As for the matter of holding meetings on Sunday, not specifically religious meetings, there is the presence of many well known organizations, such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Colonial Dames, A. P. V. A. D. A. R., W. D. C., etc."

As a member of several of the above organizations, I confidently expect the "proper authorities" to speak in protest for themselves, and as a charter member and officer in the Commonwealth Chapter, D. A. R., of Richmond, it becomes my duty to decline for my chapter any part in the celebration of a precedent for meetings on Sunday.

We have never held a meeting—either religious, business or social—upon that day, and I think it highly improbable that we ever shall. Our work along patriotic lines is active and ardent, but in times of peace it has never become necessary to intrude that work upon the hours of God's holy day, set apart for other service.

KATE S. WINN, Corresponding Secretary, Commonwealth Chapter, D. A. R.

The Rosemary Library.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—The following statement appears in this morning's paper: "But the demand for a public library is entirely unfilled. The Rosemary Library is a private subscription library, having only works of fiction, and catering to a limited class."

Had the writer of this entirely untrue statement taken the pains to visit the Rosemary Library he could have made such a serious error. The Rosemary Library is not a private library, nor does it cater to any special class. Its shelves contain about 4,000 volumes of fiction and 3,200 volumes of history and biography art, reference, essays, etc., and many books are out in the hands of readers.

The Rosemary Library, had the people of Richmond aided it by liberal donations, could have done a far greater work than it has done. By its efforts it has helped the city, it keeps open its doors and does very important work.

The Rosemary Library makes no opposition to the establishment of a great city library. Far from it; but until the establishment of such a library, why try to injure the one which is already here, and in its unobtrusive way is a great help to many men, women and children?

ONE WHO KNOWS.

January 22, 1912.

When Petersburg Goes Dry.

The James shall flow with brandy, The Appomattox with rye, And Bryan shall be our President, When Petersburg goes dry.

The mountains will be turned to cheese, Skyscrapers reach the sky, And all the air will turn to booze, When Petersburg goes dry.

The niggers shall be turned to white, And Taft will weigh but sixty-five, When Petersburg goes dry.

The cocks will cease to crow at dawn, The "soakers" will all die; The railroad companies all will bust, When Petersburg goes dry.

Roosevelt will lose his grin, Wilson will tell a lie, The pickle shops will go to ruin, When Petersburg goes dry.

Surry C. H. LAURIE C. GREENE.

What is the "turkey trot"? Why did not Governor Wilson desire the support of Colonel Harvey's publication? To whom should I apply in Brooklyn touching property taxes?

A recently named dance, so-called, probably, from some suggestion of the turkey's gait. No explanation of this action has been received.

Write to the City Treasurer. Which is the richest county in Virginia? Norfolk.

La Marquise de Fontenoy

Mrs. JOHN LESLIE, who is due in New York to-day from England, is the most intimate friend and confidante of the Duchess of Connaught, now staying with the Duke and Princess Patricia at Marlborough House.

Her daughter, as the guests of Ambassador Whitelaw Reid, at his house on Madison Avenue, in fact, Mrs. John Leslie is the only American-born woman who has ever held an appointment at the court of St. James, having attended the Duchess of Connaught as lady in waiting on the occasion of her trip to India with the duke, to be present at the great Durbar held in 1902 for the proclamation of Edward VII. as Emperor of India.

Mrs. Leslie is a daughter of Leonard Jerome, of New York, and her two sisters are Mrs. Morton Freeman and Mrs. George Cornwallis West, better known by her former name of Lady Randolph Churchill. Although Mrs. Leslie is most gifted with the Duke and Princess Patricia, her daughter, as the guests of Ambassador Whitelaw Reid, at his house on Madison Avenue, in fact, Mrs. John Leslie is the only American-born woman who has ever held an appointment at the court of St. James, having attended the Duchess of Connaught as lady in waiting on the occasion of her trip to India with the duke, to be present at the great Durbar held in 1902 for the proclamation of Edward VII. as Emperor of India.

Mrs. Leslie's husband, Colonel Leslie, was formerly in the Grenadier Guards, and has been a member of the House of Commons.

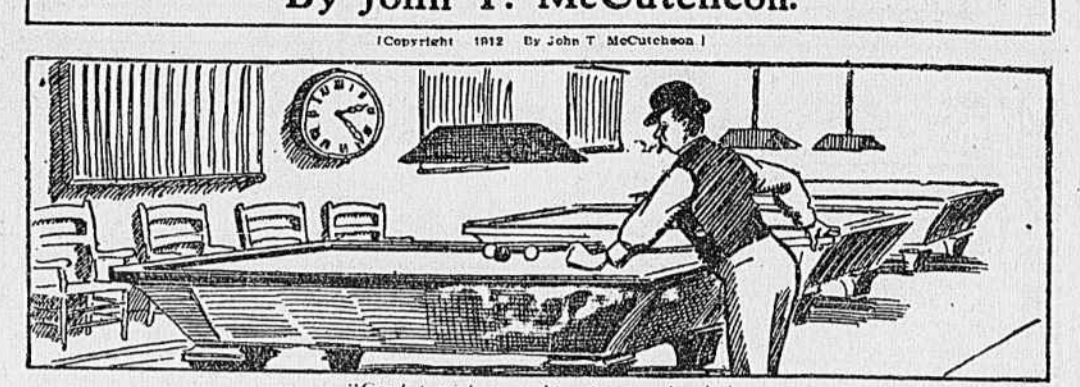
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HOW NOT TO GET A GOOD JOB.

By John T. McCutcheon.

Copyright 1912 By John T. McCutcheon



"Gee! I wish I could get a good job."

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Freezing of Hampton Roads.

Is it true that in 1867 Hampton Roads was frozen so that teams were driven across?

In the absence of record, this query was submitted to a distinguished and well informed gentleman, an old resident of the Chesapeake region and a long resident of Newport News. He says: "All sorts of rumors about that winter are current. Mr. ... told me that in the winter of 1867-7 he was married in Norfolk, and that to reach that place he had to walk across the Roads from Old Point."

The Cabinet.

Please give me the names of the members of the present Cabinet and of the Chief Justice.

MACON, Secretary of State, P. C. Knox, Treasury, F. MacVeagh; War, H. L. Shinn; Attorney-General, G. W. Wickersham; Postmaster-General, F. H. Hitchcock; Navy, G. Von L. Meyer; Interior, W. L. Fisher; Agriculture, J. Wilson; Commerce and Labor, C. Nagel; Chief Justice, Edward D. White.

The Mosaic Code.

Can you inform me where I can find De Calish's address on the Mosaic Code?

R. N. HUNT. It was published in the Virginia Law Register for March, 1907. You can probably borrow the pamphlet from any lawyer of your acquaintance.

Consumption of Intoxicants.

I am told that the consumption of intoxicants is increasing in spite of the existence of a vast territory. Can you inform me if this is true?

R. F. T. We have no estimate for 1911. That for 1910 indicates an increase.

Various.

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COMFORT IN TRAVELING
The National State and City Bank
 RICHMOND, VA.,
 Furnishes
LETTERS OF CREDIT
 and
TRAVELERS' CHECKS,
 which enable a traveler to obtain money without inconvenience in any part of the world.